

DRAFT

**Town of Londonderry
Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry VT**

Committee Members Present: Will Reed, Bob Borella, Larry Gubb, Bruce Frauman, Dona Korpi (6:40 to end.)

Others in Attendance : Emmett Dunbar (6:22 to 6:40)

1. Call Meeting to order

Chair Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

2. Additions or Deletions to the agenda

Will moved, Larry seconded to move discussion of electric vehicles to top of agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Larry moved, Bob seconded to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting with one minor correction to item 4, paragraph 4. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Electric Vehicles

Emmett Dunbar said his house has solar and he has a Nissan Leaf. He said by having an all electric car, the paradigm completely shifts to being able to refuel (recharge) when returning home from a trip. He spoke with the EV charging director from GMP. She said there is a charging desert at the Route 11/100 intersection. Emmett said that a 480 volt fast charger needs 3-phase power and \$60-\$100,000 each. He said electric vehicles lose about half their power and range in the winter months. Will said there are 233 fast chargers in Vermont.

Bob said the state has already sent out an RFP to install 480v charging stations in 11 locations in Vermont plus four 240v charging stations this year. Londonderry has been mentioned as a good location by the Agency of Natural Resources for grants. We will be on the ANR list serve for the next round of grants. We need to submit a request to be on the list of grants as is Jamaica and Ludlow. Emmett said he spoke with the owner of the plaza about installing a charger there and asked if the plaza has 3-phase power.

Emmett also said he will be talking with Neighborhood Connections about purchasing an electric vehicle for those who don't have a vehicle and need one to get to doctor's appointments and shopping. He said used Nissan Leafs that are about 6-8 years old run about \$7-8,000. He said the price is not an issue but whether NC wants the headaches and expense of a vehicle to maintain and insure. He has an appointment with the NC director on Monday. Emmett then left.

Donna arrived. She says she has a level 2, 240v charger at Mountain Energy. It takes about 8-10 hours for a Tesla to fully recharge. This goes down to 1-1/2 hours for a fast charger. Donna said she can charge a flat fee for charging, but not charge by the minute. Some people leave their vehicles overnight to charge.

Bob said NC is looking for drivers with their own vehicles and insurance. Bruce asked if people could drive a NC owned vehicle or if a driver would still be needed.

Bob said that if one buys an electric vehicle, the state will provide a 240v charger for free.

Larry said his understanding is that for commercial charging stations, the owner must own the land. Bob said we should get on the program. It does not cost the town anything. We have to have fast chargers as opposed to level 2. We can't be part of the state program this year, but will be kept informed about the next phase of grants by the ANR Agency of Housing and Community Development.

Will asked where this leaves us with Emmett's idea. Bob said we should let him go and maybe help him with the application process. He said Emmett went to Shane who went to Kelly who told the EC to go for it. Bob said at VECAN, the focus was on charging stations on highways. Donna and Larry said Walmart and LL Bean have lots of charging stations for Tesla's which are often in use. Donna is amazed there are no charging stations at Stratton. Will said every house has 220v available, One needs a special plug that links two breakers to get it.

5. Solar Power for Williams Park

Added to the agenda by Larry. Agreed to by unanimous vote. Larry said it would be great to have solar power along with a Power Wall or other battery at Williams Park for the Farmer's Market. Bruce had written that the Farmers' Market might move, so the installation should be portable. Larry said Williams Park would also be a good place for live music events, so if the Farmers' Market does move we should leave the installation there and build a second one at the new location. We all agreed this is a good idea but are not certain how to make it happen.

6. TCI Update (Transportation and Climate Initiative)

Bob went to a meeting in Manchester on the Transportation and Climate Initiative in which 11 states are joining together to put a cap on carbon emissions. Providers can buy allowances. A fee will be paid to states which invest money in renewable energy vehicles if they exceed allowances. (??) Bob said this is one regional initiative but there are problems with approval by legislatures and governors. Vermont Governor Scott is not thrilled with cap programs. There are problems in New York state as well. It is set to start in 2022. Bob will email links to the website. There is nothing we can do at the moment. We will be involved if it passes at the state level.

7. LEC Term Limits

Bruce said this comes from Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe who is formalizing membership of all town commissions and committees. After some discussion about our status as a town committee (we are sanctioned by the Select Board) the committee asked Bruce to work with Shane to determine who would get 2 and 3 year terms moving forward. Also we will ask Shane, Tina or Kelly to update "Energy Coordinator" to "Energy Committee" on the town website.

8. CRO Collaboration

Bruce said some CRO members are interested in pursuing a Window Dressers workshop for Londonderry and surrounding towns. Bob does not understand the need

for all the steps. Will said he is not opposed, but wants to see what it entails. Bruce will invite Window Dressers director Laura Sutton to participate via phone at our next meeting and will look for her email to re-distribute.

9. VEEP (VT Energy Education Program)

Will said he attended a building design conference in Burlington and was blown away by the Vermont Energy Education Program. It goes to K-12 schools with hands on demonstrations on how energy works. It consists of engineered stations for learning about wind turbines using moveable fans, the relative strength needed to turn a generator for incandescent vs LED lights, mini factories with smokestacks, and tight houses with and without insulation. This can be for paid directly or through a grant program. It can be a day or a week, one class or a whole school. It is direct learning with challenges such as providing power for an increasing number of light bulbs.

Will emailed Flood Brook School principal Neal McIntyre but received no response. Will realizes Neal gets approached all the time with good ideas. After some discussion, Will will draft a letter for the EC to sign to send to Neal via email and snail mail. He will also contact VEEP for advice. Will, Bruce and Bob agree that the fall is the best time and Will should use the leverage of the EC to encourage Neal to take a look. Bob said maybe we can sponsor a science-fair like event in the gym with all the stations set up.

Donna suggested that we coordinate with the Mountain School, Montessori School, and the Little School. She said we should be giving kids hands-on exposure then get parents engaged through the kids. She and Will agree this might not happen until the next school year.

10. Next Meeting Day and Time

We will meet on Wednesday, April 15 at 6:15 pm in the Twitchell Building.

11. Adjourn

Bruce moved, Larry seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted March 10, 2020,
Bruce Frauman
Clerk

Approved

Londonderry Energy Committee

Will Reed, Chair